

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KATHMA 03124 110238Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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R 101028Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2259

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KATHMANDU 3124

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS NP

SUBJECT: STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES IN KATHMANDU

REF: KATHMANDU 2868

1. THE STUDENT STRIKE WHICH BEGAN MAY 15 IS STILL CONTINUING IN KATHMANDU VALLEY WITH AN ESTIMATED 80 PERCENT OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONTINUING TO BOYCOTT CLASSES AND EXAMINATIONS. STUDENTS AT OTHER CAMPUSES AROUND THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING BIRATNAGAR AND BIRGUNJ, HAVE TAKEN EXAMINATIONS AND CLASSES ARE REPORTED TO BE FUNCTIONING NORMALLY.

2. ACCORDING TO ONE UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR -90-95 PERCENT- OF THE STUDENTS IN KATHMANDU WANT TO RETURN BUT ARE BEING PREVENTED FROM DOING SO BY A SMALL GROUP OF MILITANTS. STUDENTS ARE FEARFUL THAT IF THEY DO NOT RETURN SOON, UNIVERSITY AUTHORITIES WILL SIMPLY CANCEL EXAMINATIONS, THEREBY INVALIDATING PREVIOUS YEAR'S WORK BY STUDENTS. MILITANTS HAVE REPORTEDLY ADOPTED VIOLENT TACTICS TO ENFORCE THEIR DEMANDS: FOUR STUDENTS WERE BADLY BEATEN AT A SMALL CAMPUS FOR NOT HONORING BOYCOTT AND EXAMINATIONS AT ANOTHER CAMPUS WERE DISRUPTED BY SMALL GROUP WHO DESTROYED EXAMINATION PAPERS.

3. UNIVERSITY AND GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAVE DECIDED NOT
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PAGE 02 KATHMA 03124 110238Z

TO CANCEL EXAMINATIONS AT THIS TIME IN ORDER TO AVOID

CONFRONTATION. THEY FEEL THAT HAVING MET VIRTUALLY ALL
STUDENT DEMANDS TIME IS ON THEIR SIDE AND THAT MAJORITY OF
STUDENTS WILL SOON TIRE OF STRIKE AND RETURN TO CLASSES. WHILE
THAT MAY BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC VIEW, PRESSURE IS BUILDING
FROM STUDENTS AND OTHERS TO GET BACK TO NORMAL SCHEDULE.
CARGO

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Message Attributes

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